



## Sisters of Charity of Our Lady, Mother of the Church

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Dear Friend,

“Familiarity reduces the greatness of things.” This saying comes to mind when I think of the many signs and symbols of our Catholic faith that surround us and, perhaps, that we take for granted because they are so familiar to us. One of these symbols is the Crucifix. It hangs in our churches and, perhaps in our homes. But do we really see the greatness of this symbol?

Pope Francis recently reminded us that the Crucifix is not just a symbol or a wall decoration; it is the entire expression of the love of God who sent His Son to die for us. “How many Christians,” he asked, “spend time looking at the Crucifix? Look at the Crucifix in silence, look at the wounds, look at the heart of Jesus Christ crucified, the Son of God, annihilated, humiliated for love. Christ’s death on the cross shows the ‘madness’ of God’s love for His children. Whenever we look at the Crucifix, we find this love.”

Sister Loreto found this love. She shares that, from childhood, she learned to love the Crucifix. “When things were tough, I would hold the Crucifix and gaze into Jesus’ eyes. He strengthened me and filled me with His love.”

Friend, when you look at the Crucifix, we pray that you too will know ‘the madness’ of God’s love, God’s unconditional, infinite, amazing, incredible love for you. The Saints tell us that it wasn’t the nails that held Jesus on the cross. It was His love for each of us. His love for YOU, His love for me.

The Crucifix is the ultimate proof of God’s love for us. More He could not do; less He would not do. In the busyness of my daily life, I need to be reminded of that . . . and often!

In good times and bad, in joy and sorrow, gaze lovingly upon the Crucifix. See in the face of Jesus, your Lord and Savior, He who loved you to the end. It will give you comfort. And, like for Sister Loreto, in tough times you will find the strength to carry on.

Daily we Sisters of Charity look to the Crucifix. There we see love poured out to the very end and we strive to imitate that love in our

ministries. The need is great, and we cannot do it alone. Can we count on your support again? Together we can be love outpoured for those overwhelmed by the challenges of life. Friend, if you can assist us with an offering of whatever your means allow, we would be deeply grateful.

Each day we Sisters touch the lives of so many looking for the strength to carry on. Families, once independent, now having to depend on our Food Pantry. Mothers with small children, looking to our Homeless Shelter to help them get back on their feet. The marginalized, the down-and-out, looking to the Sisters to see them through.



***You too, like Sister Loreto,  
will know the ‘madness’ of  
God’s love for YOU when  
you look to the crucifix.***

Because of your goodness, our Sister-teachers and principals nourish the faith and impact the lives of the young people in our schools.

Your kindness assists our Sister-nurses to provide compassionate care for our treasured elderly in our nursing homes.

Your thoughtfulness provides the means for our Sisters to be a supportive presence to the poor and less fortunate, especially those who visit our Food Pantry and families seeking refuge in our Homeless Shelter.

Your generosity ensures that our young Sisters receive the professional and spiritual training they need to continue the mission of the Sisters of Charity.

Your faithfulness helps us care for our dear elderly and infirm Sisters with the love and dignity they deserve, after a life poured out in loving service, in imitation of Our Crucified Lord.

None of this can happen without your faithful generosity. These are challenging times for all of us but for some, the challenges are overwhelming.

You too have challenges of your own, I am sure. Let the Crucifix remind you that you are not alone. As Pope Francis advised, gaze lovingly into the face of your Savior and know that you are loved – infinitely and unconditionally! Or perhaps you might like to give it to a family member or friend who needs to be reminded of that love.

When our Sisters gather for prayer each day, we think of you and ask our loving God to bless you abundantly. Thank you for your loving faithfulness to the Sisters of Charity and those we serve. Please pray for us.



*YOU are a blessing to Sister Alexandria and all our Sister-teachers. With us, you impact the lives of our students.*



*Mother Mary David, SCMC*

Gratefully, in Mary Mother of our Crucified Lord,

Mother Mary David, SCMC  
Superior General